

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03446 192207Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MMS-01 /056 W

----- 096594

P 192130Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1237

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OSD/ISA//PRIORITY

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ//SP-O//

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJ: DOWNGRADING GENERAL POSITION COMUSMILGP ARGENTINA

1. ON 16 MAY IN CONVERSATION WITH A HIGH RANKING EMBASSY OFFICIAL SENATOR EDUARDO PAZ (CHAIRMAN HOUSE ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEE, GOA) WAS INFORMED OF THE DOWNGRADING OF THE POSITION COMUSMILGP FROM A GENERAL OFFICER TO COLONEL (06). HE WAS INFORMED THAT THIS WAS NECESSITATED BY RECENT PASSAGE OF A PUBLIC LAW AIMED AT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF FLAG/GENERAL OFFICERS ASSIGNED MILGPS/MAAGS/MISSIONS WORLD WIDE.

2. SENATOR PAZ'S IMMEDIATE REACTION AND COMMENT WAS, "AS YOU LOOK AT THE WORLD, WHERE ARE YOUR FRIENDS?" HE INQUIRED ON THE STATUS IN BRAZIL, WHEREUPON HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE FLAG/GENERAL OFFICERS THERE WERE REALLY WITH THE JOINT BRAZIL-US MILITARY COMMISSION AND NOT WITH THE MILGP. THE REPLY WAS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE STILL GOING TO BE FLAG/GEN OFFICERS IN BRAZIL AND NOT IN ARGENTINA. IN SUMMATION HIS ATTITUDE WAS WHY DOES NOT THE US LIKE ARGENTINA, CITING THAT THE COUNTRY IS VERY ANTI-COMMUNISTIC, PRO-AMERICAN BUT HAS NOT BEEN IN THE US FAVOR. HE WENT ON TO RECOGNIZE THAT IN SPITE OF PRESENT TERRORIST PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARGENTINA HAS THE POTENTIAL SECOND TO NONE IN THE WORLD WEHN YOU CONSIDER FOOD, AREA, STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING COASLINE, STRAITS OF MAGELLAN AND THE ANTARCTIC. HIS FEELINGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03446 192207Z

WERE THAT US CITIZENS WERE NOT INFORMED ON ARGENTINA AND ITS

DIFFERENCES FROM COMMON LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

3. SENATOR PAZ SEEMED FIRM ON HIS VIEWS AND WENT ON TO STATE HIS DESIRE FOR CONTINUED CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT IN VIEW OF RECENT PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN THAT DIRECTION, THIS WAS NOT THE TIME TO ELIMINATE A GENERAL OFFICER FROM ARGENTINA. IN CONCLUSION, HE ADVISED THAT HE THOUGHT THE IDEA WAS INTOLERABLE AND OF HIS INTENT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ARMY CINC GENRAL LAPLANE, MIN OF DEFENSE SAVINO, AND THE PRESIDENT, IF NECESSARY. HE ALSO STATED HE INTENDED TO INFORM AMBASSADOR ORFILA WITH HOPE THAT HE WOULD GO TO SECRETARY KISSINGER OR PRESIDENT FORD.

4. SUMMARY: AS PREDICTED, DOWGRADING OF THE COMUSMILGP POSTION WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED AND WAS VIEWED AS A SLAP IN THE FACE BY ARGENTINA. THIS IS THE FIRST OF WHAT WILL BE SEVERAL ANGRY REMARKS FROM RESPONSIBLE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS.
HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS03446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750176-0113
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750537/aaaabgwx.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOWNGRADING GENERAL POSITION COMUSMILGP ARGENTINA
TAGS: MORG, PFOR, US, AR, (PAZ, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006